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MISSION GS 424

NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
KHE PHAT, NORTH VIETNAM
17-39-20N 106-12-55E



1 FEBRUARY 1972

LAOS 17 NM

OCCUPIED AAA SITE

COMPLETED CULVERT



ROUTE 101

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

N 8251 NPIC (2/72)

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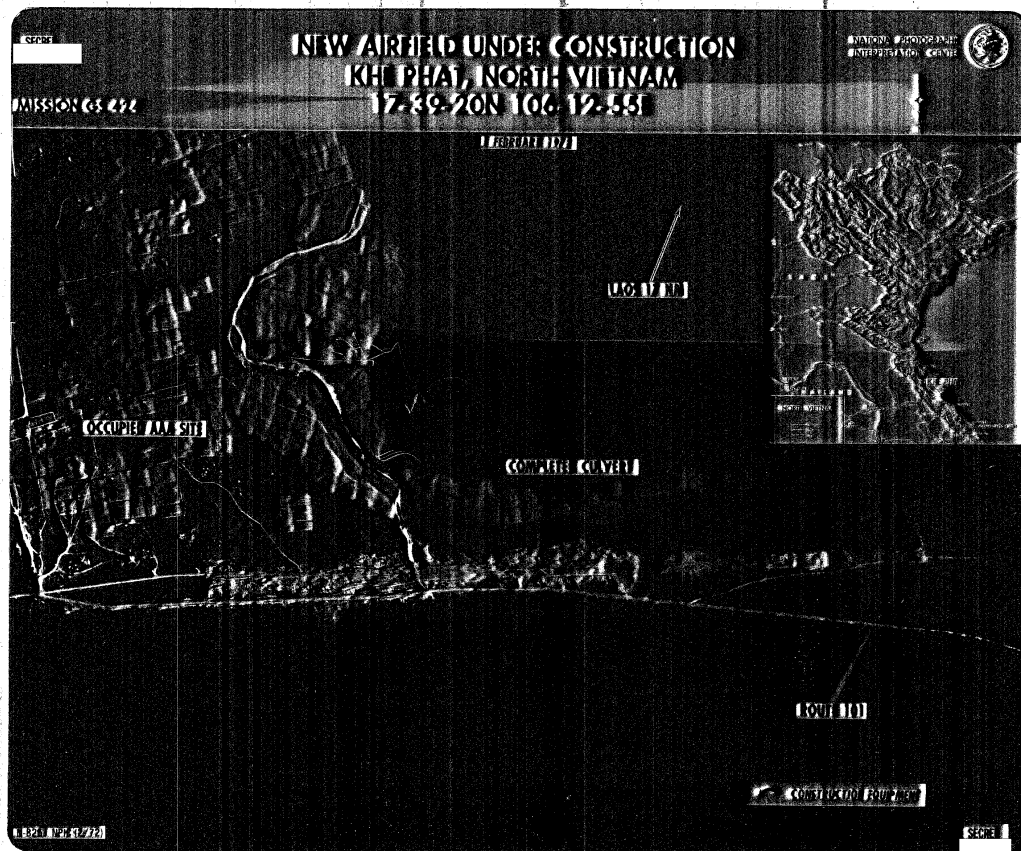
N-8251/72

NPIC CONTROL NUMBER

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REFERENCE TO: GS 424

NEW AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
KHE PHAT, NORTH VIETNAM

1. SIGNIFICANCE: A NEW AIRFIELD IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION 17 NAUTICAL MILES (NM) NORTH OF THE LAOTIAN BORDER.
2. LOCATION: IN THE SOUTHERN PANHANDLE OF NORTH VIETNAM AT 17-39-20N 106-12-55E NEAR THE VILLAGE OF KHE PHAT, 15 NM INLAND FROM THE QUANG KHE COASTAL TRANSSHIPMENT POINT [REDACTED], AND APPROXIMATELY 60 NM NORTHWEST OF THE DMZ.
3. REMARKS: THE APPARENT PURPOSE OF THIS NEW AIRFIELD IS TO PROVIDE FOR ANOTHER TACTICAL INTERCEPTOR/FIGHTER BASE IN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PANHANDLE, SIMILAR IN CONSTRUCTION AND FUNCTION TO QUAN LANG AIRFIELD [REDACTED] THE COMPLETION OF THIS FIELD WILL ENHANCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CAPABILITY TO LAUNCH OR RECOVER AIRCRAFT USED TO HARASS US AIR OPERATIONS OVER LAOS, PROTECT LOGISTICS ROUTES, AND PROVIDE AIR DEFENSE AGAINST THE PENETRATIONS OF NORTH VIETNAM AIR SPACE.

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4. NEGATION DATE:

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5. FIRST
IDENTIFICATION:

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6. MISSION READOUT: THE NEW AIRFIELD IS IN AN EARLY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. ONLY INITIAL GRADING AND EARTH CLEARING FOR A SINGLE 1,737- BY 38-METER (5,700- BY 125-FOOT) EAST/WEST RUNWAY IS EVIDENT. THERE IS ROOM FOR RUNWAY EXPANSION, ESPECIALLY TO THE EAST. A DRAINAGE CULVERT WHICH BISECTS THE RUNWAY HAS BEEN COMPLETED. ROUTE 101 HAS BEEN REROUTED AROUND THE CONSTRUCTION. NO SUPPORT FACILITIES ARE PRESENT OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION. KARST HILLS ADJACENT TO THE NEW FIELD MAY POSSIBLY PROVIDE FOR UNDERGROUND HANGARS SIMILAR TO THOSE AT OTHER NORTH VIETNAMESE AIRFIELDS. AT LEAST SIX PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT WERE OBSERVED AT WORK ON THE RUNWAY. ONE OCCUPIED FOUR-POSITION AAA SITE WAS IDENTIFIED NEAR THE SOUTHEAST END OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE.

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ENLARGEMENT: 7X

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